



THE TOGGLE IRON

Planning to Begin for Corson Building

The Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act, signed into law by President Bush in February of this year, included \$500,000 in planning funds for the Corson Building. These funds will enable the National Park Service to complete the planning and design phase of a project that would rehabilitate the Corson Building to serve as an education and public program center for the park.

The Corson Building, which is located next to the park visitor center and across from the New Bedford Whaling Museum, actually consists of two three-story brick structures built in 1875 and 1884. For many years the Corson Building housed Moby-Dick Marine Specialties on its first floor, a popular shopping stop for visitors to the historic district. In 1997, a devastating fire ripped through the building, destroying its roof and top two floors.

Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE) came to the building's rescue after the fire, hiring a structural engineer who convinced the City Building Commissioner and the building's owner that the building could be saved. WHALE acquired the building and secured Federal, State and municipal funds for the building's stabilization. Now stabilized, it stands ready to serve the public as a much-needed indoor gathering space for programs and activities in the park.

To make the project happen, WHALE intends to donate the building to the United States. A feasibility study, completed by Mount Vernon Group Architects in 2002, envisioned a physical link between the visitor center and Corson Building through what is now the back garden of the

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This site plan shows the close relationship of the visitor center and Corson building.

Alaskan Native Dance Group Visits Park

In March, the New Bedford Whaling Museum's theater and some local schools were filled with the youthful exuberance of the Alaska Native Heritage Center's High School Dance Group. Dressed in traditional regalia, the group performed dances that tell stories of traditional Alaska Native legends and lifestyles. The group's performance repertoire for the New Bedford area visit included Inupiaq and Yup'ik singing and dancing, reflecting two of the state's major cultural regions.



Co-sponsored by the Whaling Museum, the park and the New Bedford Oceanarium project, the performances were made possible through the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Act. ECHO has brought together partners in Alaska, Hawaii and Massachusetts - based on a shared whaling and maritime heritage - for a wide range of cultural exchange projects. The dance group's east coast itinerary also included performances in Washington, DC, on Martha's Vineyard, and in Salem, Massachusetts.

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From the Superintendent

Our National Parks - special places - uniquely American - afford us opportunities to reflect on and celebrate our history, heritage and culture. Here in New Bedford, spring is a season filled with families enjoying a school vacation week, the first warm weekend out of doors, or a Thursday evening stroll on AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) Night. It is a time of preparation for a full roster of summer programs. And it is a time to plan for new ways to share the history and contemporary culture of all of those places that are part of the New Bedford whaling story. I hope you enjoy this spring edition of The Toggle Iron.

John Piltzecker



Corson Planning

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visitor center. The first floor of the Corson Building would be retained for retail use. The upper levels would include flexible classroom, program and seminar space, and would house an expanded park staff.

Planning for the Corson Building has been assigned to the National Park Service Denver Service Center (DSC), the planning design and construction arm of the National Park Service. DSC Project Manager, Richard Crane, along with representatives of the Park, Regional Office and WHALE, will be meeting over the next few months to begin the planning process. Look for updates and progress reports in future editions of The Toggle Iron.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling history. The park encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District and addresses the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States.

**New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park**
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Park Visitor Center
(508) 996-4095

Park Headquarters
(508) 996-4469
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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Bay State Restoration has recently completed extensive reconstruction and repointing of the brick facades of the Corson Building as part of WHALE's efforts to stabilize the structure. Bay State also completed the brownstone stabilization at the park visitor center and the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Alaskan Dance Group

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Pictured are highlights of the group's two-day tour, including their performances at Friend's Academy in Dartmouth, Old Hammondtown School in Mattapoisett and Dartmouth Middle School. The Alaska Native Heritage Center is located in

Anchorage. The park's legislatively affiliated site, the Inupiat Heritage Center, is located in Barrow, Alaska. Look for more news about partnership projects with both these sites in future editions.



Temple Toggle-Iron: The most successful harpoon ever made. Invented by Lewis Temple, an African American whalecraft-maker of New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1848, and at first called "porpoise iron" and "Temple's gig." It became the universal whale iron, and has never been improved upon. (From Clifford W. Ashley's, *The Yankee Whaler*)

Thursday Evenings in the Park

On Thursday evenings throughout the summer, beginning July 10, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park will host a series of free Thursday evening concerts in the park. This year's concert series is supported, in part, by a grant from the New Bedford Area Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The Thursday evening concerts will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last approximately one hour. Limited seating is available and people are invited to bring lawn chairs. In case of rain, concerts will be moved to an indoor location.

July 10: (AHA!) Semanya McCord—traditional and contemporary jazz (Whaling Museum)

July 17: Maggi Peirce—stories and songs from Belfast, Ireland

July 24: Jolly Rogues—period music of the sea from the 19th century

July 31: Magnolia—Cajun music

August 7: New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus—traditional songs of the sea

August 14: (AHA!) Toe Jam Puppet Band—music and fun for kids

August 21: The Beans—Maritime music

August 28: Ricardo and Maurice Brazilian Duo—Brazilian music/jazz



A recent performance of the Beans on the Schooner Ernsetina. Be sure to catch them at the visitor center garden on August 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Maritime Heritage Days

Visiting maritime musicians and craftspeople from Mystic to Cape Ann will enliven the streets of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park every Saturday throughout the summer season beginning July 12, 2003.

Free performances will take place in and around the park visitor center at 33 William Street and the New Bedford Whaling Museum at 18 Johnny Cake Hill from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visitors young and old are invited to enjoy these songs and stories of the sea, have lunch in one of several restaurants in the historical park, and then visit the New Bedford Whaling Museum, where performances will continue (for the price of admission) inside the museum from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Craft Demonstrations (12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.)

July 12: Tor Bendicksen – net making

July 19: Bob Leonard & Phil Szenher – sea chests

July 26: Anne Lima – Nantucket lightship baskets

August 2: Manny Palomo – wooden boat building

August 9: Barbara Merry – rigging & marlinspike

August 16: Dean Rantz — blacksmithing

August 23: Gerry Vinci – figurehead carving

August 30: Ron Raiseles – coopering (barrel making)

Music (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.)

July 12: Geoff Kaufman and Rick Spencer

July 19: Jerry Bryant and Dave Peloquin

July 26: Deborah Cowan

August 2: The Rum Soaked Crooks

August 9: Andy Woolf and Tom Goux

August 16: John Roberts and Larry Young

August 23: Ye Mariners All

August 30: Shipping News

Volunteer Spotlight



Name: Elena Martins

Age: (optional): 70 +

City/Town you live in:
New Bedford

Family: Widow—
daughter, 2 sons, 2
grandchildren, 1 great
grandchild

Occupation: Retired Registered Nurse

Special Interests/Hobbies: Sewing, reading, taping movies, arts and crafts, cooking, lunch with my friends, going to the casino, taking my grandchildren to special activities and spending quality time with my family.

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center?
4 years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? About 4 years ago while vacationing at the Outer Banks, NC, I saw what a great job the volunteers were doing there. I decided that when I got home I would become a volunteer.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center? I like to meet people from all walks of life—local, national and international. I like to share my knowledge of our city with visitors.

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life? I spent ten years in New York City where I earned my BS in Nursing from Hunter College and worked as a nurse in a hospital Emergency Room across the street from the old Madison Square Garden. The fun part was that we could go to all the functions there for free.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? I would like to keep traveling but my legs keep telling me, "No, No!"

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories? My childhood, my marriage and the fact that I was able to stay home for eight years to raise my children. I have many fond memories and enjoyed that time of my life. My fondest recent memory was being an extra in the movie "Passionada" which was filmed in New Bedford a couple of summers ago.



Name: John Robinson

Age: (optional) 76

City/Town you live in:
New Bedford

Family: Wife, 2 sons

Occupation: Retired teacher and school administrator

Special Interests/Hobbies: International relations, national political affairs, reading, walking, travel

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center?
11 years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? To help the local economy by promoting and developing tourism in the historic district. To help preservation, and cultural and social development

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center? Meeting visitors from all over the U.S. and world and helping them to appreciate our heritage. Working with park rangers and other volunteers.

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life? Stationed in Italy with the U.S. Army. Trips with my wife and friends to Alaska and Portugal.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? Go on a cruise from the west coast of California to Hawaii.

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories? Going to Acushnet Amusement Park and the beach.

*Now we got home our ship made fast
And we got through our sailing
And winding glass around we'll pass
And damn this blubber whaling*

Stanza from song in journal of the *Elizabeth Swift*, 1859

Cape Verde and Azores Cultural Exchange

University and Park Collaborate on Trip

In March, Park Ranger-Youth Programs Coordinator Frank Barrows traveled with a group of students, professors and alumni from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to the Azores and Cape Verde. The group visited the islands of Sao Miguel and Faial in the Azores and Sal and Sao Vicente in Cape Verde as a cultural exchange to establish long-term education exchanges, conduct research on the shared whaling heritage between New Bedford and the two Atlantic Ocean archipelagos, and document the trip through photography.

The International Business Association at the University invited Frank to participate because of cultural ties between New Bedford, Cape Verde, and the Azores. In pursuit of whales, New Bedford's fleet traveled the world and brought Americans into contact with many other cultures, including the people of Cape Verde and the Azores. The contacts and immigration initiated during the whaling are evident in New Bedford today, which has one of the largest Azorean Portuguese and Cape Verdean populations in the U.S.

In the Azores, the group visited the University of the Azores Business School in the capital city of Ponta Delgada on the island of Sao Miguel, and the University of the Azores Oceanography School in Horta on the island of Pico. In Cape Verde, the group visited a new local university on the island of Sao Vicente.

Frank met with college professors and high school teachers to further explore the impact of American Whaling on the social, economic, and environmental history of Cape Verde and the Azores. He also met with high school and college students, as well as professors in Cape Verde to discuss future distance learning opportunities between students in Cape Verde and participants in the park's youth programs.

This research and photography will be used for website development, lectures and presentations, and will also be incorporated into the park's youth programming.

Scenes from Cape Verde and the Azores

Right: Frank Barrows (far right) with International Business Associations students on the island of Sao Miguel in the Azores.

Below: The port city of Mindelo on the island of Sao Vicente in Cape Verde.

Far below (left and right): People on the island of Sal in Cape Verde.



Youth Groups in Full Bloom

The snow has melted and it appears that spring has finally arrived at the park. With temperatures warming up and three junior ranger programs, now is the perfect time for young people to enjoy New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

Armed with junior ranger booklets and pencils, increasing numbers of young people can be seen exploring the park as part of school and youth groups, or with family and friends. Participants in the park's youth programs are



discovering more ways to learn about the park through exciting new programs that allow them the opportunity to learn about and create art, learn computer skills by exploring the park's website, go on a scavenger hunt in the park, and complete various games and activities. Participants completing the junior ranger and art ranger programs are invited to the park visitor center to receive their respective badge. Participants in the Web Ranger program will be able to earn a downloadable Web Ranger certificate. For more details about the Web Ranger please see the article below.

In addition to revamping the junior ranger booklet and adding two new junior ranger programs, the park has continued collaborations with UMass Dartmouth and the New Bedford Public Schools Speech Academy as well as ArtWorks! and the Teen Arts Coalition. This year the park has hosted just under 400 participants in youth groups and over 300 young people earned a junior ranger badge. For more information on any of the park's youth programs please contact the park's Youth Programs Coordinator at 508-996-4095 extension 13.



Park Launches WebRangers

The Web Ranger online activity is a new and exciting way for young people to explore the web and learn about the world around them and their nation's heritage. The activity is part of the park's expanded Kid Pages and was designed for young people who can't make it to the park-offering a fun way to learn about the park and of its partners without actually setting foot in the park. To earn your downloadable Web Ranger certificate, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/nebe and go to the "for KIDS" section from the home page. From there, click "more information" and you will be taken to the Kid Pages section of our website. Then go to "online activities" and "Web Ranger Scavenger Hunt."

The activity is an online scavenger hunt that takes visitors on a virtual tour of the park and its partners and allows them to explore different websites to find answers to questions about the park. After completing the scavenger hunt, participants are invited to download and print their official Web Ranger Certificate.



NPS WebRanger Site Now Online

www.nps.gov/webrangers

For more online challenges visit the National Park Service's new WebRanger page. The site consists of activities designed for people of all ages. Every time participants complete an activity they are provided with a secret code word. The secret code words can later be redeemed for a reward. You can visit this new section of the National Park Service website by going to www.nps.gov/webrangers or by simply clicking on the link in the online activities section of our Kid Pages.

Fundraiser, Grant Help Support AHA!

The AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) Steering Committee is pleased to announce that this year's Bowl-for-Art fundraiser, held at the Wonder Bowl in New Bedford on April 6, raised over \$8,000 to support the AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) Program. The Bowl-for-Art is the program's primary fundraiser. Over 150 people collected pledges and came out to bowl in support of the project.

The Bowl-for-Art fundraiser was followed by news that the Island Foundation will award a \$15,000 challenge grant toward the programming and marketing of the AHA! program this year. The AHA! program relies primarily on grants and donated funds to support its operation. The AHA! program's primary funding, from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (the State's arts agency), was eliminated this year due to the Commonwealth's budget crisis.

AHA! is downtown New Bedford's monthly arts and culture night. AHA! Nights are the second Thursday of each month between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. On these nights, more than 15 galleries, museums and cultural institutions are open free to the public. The program promotes downtown revitalization by drawing residents and visitors to the area for art openings, special programs and concerts, after normal business hours.

The success of this year's Bowl-for-Art fundraiser and the generosity of the event's supporters will help fund programs, marketing and coordination for downtown New Bedford's monthly AHA! program. To find out more about AHA!, call (508) 264-8859 or visit the AHA! website at www.ahanewbedford.org.



The production of The Toggle Iron was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of Kodak, Proud Partner of America's National Parks.



The "Rocket Rangers" pictured above, were one of the two teams representing the park at this year's Bowl For Art Fundraiser. L-R Matt White and his mom Jennifer Gonsalves; Derek Santos; Michelle and Robert Spink

AHA! Hires New Project Director

The AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) Steering Committee is pleased to announce the selection of New Bedford resident Margie Butler as the new Project Director of downtown New Bedford's monthly arts and culture night.

Margie is a working artist with a strong background in marketing and advertising. Previously she served as Senior Vice President, Strategy, for the Sterling Group, working with clients such as Viacom, Nike, PepsiCo, Outward Bound, Ocean Spray, Federal Express, Johnson & Johnson and Hershey Foods.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is an active partner in this collaborative program. Margie will be directing the AHA!



project from workspace provided by the park as its visitor center. To reach Margie and to find out more about AHA!, call (508) 264-8859 or visit the AHA! website at www.ahanewbedford.org.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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AHA!

Art, History, & Architecture

Downtown New Bedford's Arts & Culture Gallery Night

**the second Thursday of each month
5-9 PM**

All venues, programs, parking and
shuttle are FREE!

Thursday, June 12

"Road Trip"

Thursday, July 10

"Summer Sounds"

Thursday, August 14

"Kids Rule"

www.ahanewbedford.org

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